

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215364

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 2544 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 26 AUG

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 2544

EXDIS

FOR S/S AND NEA ONLY FROM HOUGHTON AND MACK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PAKRADOUNI

REF: NICOSIA 2491

1. KARIM PAKRADOUNI CALLED ON MACK AT OUR HOTEL ON AUGUST 23 AND DELIVERED AN ANALYSIS OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION. PAKRADOUNI SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH GEMAYEL AFTER OUR MORNING MEETING (REPORTED SEPTTEL), SO WE ASSUME THAT HIS VIEWS ARE PRIMARILY A MORE STRUCTURED VERSION OF WHAT THE LESS ARTICULATE GEMAYEL WANTED TO TELL US.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 215364

2. PAKRADOUNI IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION. IN HIS VIEW A ROUGH BALANCE OF FORCES HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. LEBANESE MOSLEM GROUPS AND THEIR LEADERS ARE READY FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. THE PALESTINIANS WILL BE READY "AFTER A FEW MORE HARD KNOCKS." THE SARKIS PRESIDENCY CAN BE THE NEW START WHICH LEBANON NEEDS. IT CAN BE THE INSTRUMENT FOR A SOLUTION.

3. THE SYRIAN ROLE IS A KEY ONE, ACCORDING TO PAKRADOUNI, WHO DOES NOT PRETEND THAT THE CHRISTIAN FORCES COULD HAVE STAGED THEIR COMEBACK WITHOUT THE SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION. PAKRADOUNI TOOK PAINS TO MAKE A CASE FOR WHY SYRIA IS WILLING TO FORCE A SETTLEMENT ON THE PALESTINIANS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CAIRO ACCORD. ASAD, HE SAID, CANNOT ACCEPT DEFEAT IN LEBANON AND A LEBANESE SOLUTION WILL SERVE TO (A) RELIEVE SYRIA'S ISOLATION IN THE ARAB WORLD AND RELIEVE THE PRESSURE FROM IRAQ, (B) ENABLE SYRIA TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF THE ARABS VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL, AND (C) PROTECT SYRIA'S BORDER WITH LEBANON FROM VULNERABILITY TO AN ISRAELI THRUST.

4. WHILE WAITING FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO COME TO TERMS, THE PHALANGE WILL MAINTAIN ITS CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINAINS. THE PHALANGE FEELS THAT SUCH DISLOUGE IS USEFUL AND WOULD FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT MORE DIALOGUE WITH THE MOSLEMS, AS RECENTLY INITIATED BY SAEB SALAM'S VISIT TO GEMAYEL.

5. THE USG, SAID PAKRADOUNI, SHOULD DO THREE THINGS: FIRST, ENCOURAGE ASAD TO IMPOSE (PAKRADOUNI STRESSED THE WORD) A SOLUTION ON LEBANON. THE USG MUST BE WILLING TO LET ASAD EMPLOY MILITARY MEANS FOR HIS POLITICAL OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING A STABLE, CONSERVATIVE LEBANON. SECOND, PROTECT ASAD FROM SOVIET PRESSURE RESULTING FROM HIS LEBANON POLICY. THIRD, WARN THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST CONTINUATION OF ITS MEDDLING IN LEBANON. DILLERY UNQTE KISSINGER

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